

**MINUTES
PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 27, 2017
City Hall, Room 207
4:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aldermen Chris Wery, John Vanderleest, and David Nennig

Ald. Nicholson arrived at approximately 5:05 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Director Cramer, Dan Ditscheit, James Andersen, Mike Reed, Police Chief Andrew Smith, Director Grenier, Atty. Joe Faulds, Celestine Jeffreys, Ald. Zima and Ald. Dorff

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2017

A motion was made by Ald. Vanderleest and seconded by Ald. Wery to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2017. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ald. Wery and seconded by Ald. Vanderleest to adopt the agenda of the September 27, 2017, Park Committee meeting. Motion carried.

1. Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. Moore to review Council action and subcommittee work regarding deaccession of the 9/11 Memorial

Ald. Wery stated he would like more information on the actual items that were installed in and on the monument, are there any restrictions on the use of the 9/11 items and would like to know what is physically wrong with the monument along with the cost estimates for the repairs.

Staff stated this project was discussed at the last City Council meeting and it was referred back to committee to review the Council action and subcommittee work regarding the deaccession of the 9/11 Memorial. Several questions came up at the last City Council meeting that we would like to address.

Staff handed out the original proposal given to the Park Committee in 2004 when it was approved. Staff summarized the history of the memorial. The memorial was dedicated on June 1, 2005. Shortly after it was installed, the granite began to fail. The etching wore off and several large cracks occurred.

The donors knew that the City did not have the money to repair the monument, so they came forward a few years later and requested to begin a fundraising campaign to fix the damaged granite. This fundraising effort was approved at the October 27, 2009 Park Committee.

Shortly after this meeting the donor group began fundraising and planning for the repairs. Park staff had several discussions with the donor group and an engineering firm, who developed construction plans for the necessary repairs. The engineering firm the group hired proposed an alternate method of installing new granite so that it would not crack again when installed. Staff did review the plans in 2009.

In 2009, the donor group provided an estimated cost for the repairs. The cost to purchase the granite was approximately \$15,000. The artwork and etching of the granite was approximately \$18,000 and the installation of the granite was \$3,000-\$5,000, for a total cost of \$36,000-\$38,000. They were hoping to get a contractor to donate their services for the installation, which would save \$3,000-\$5,000. Keep in mind that this estimate is several years old now and would have to be adjusted for inflation.

The City did not receive any donated funds from the group towards the repair of the memorial. After about 1-2 years of discussions, the donor group stopped work on this project.

Some discussion occurred at the City Council about items being embedded in the concrete base. The City has no written documentation that this occurred, other than the group saying it is buried in the concrete. Staff did go through the file and could not find any information on this. It was not in their original proposal to the City and there is no documentation that this was reviewed or approved by the City before or after it was built.

The Law Department has begun researching what would need to be done if the decision is made to continue with the removal of the memorial. Keep in mind that with the current plan for the removal of the memorial, only the towers, I-beam and granite was to be removed. The concrete base was going to remain intact. The first step would be to get detailed documentation from the donors as to what was embedded in the concrete. Once the City identifies what exactly is there we can determine the appropriate action. The Law Department did contact the NYC Medical Examiner to determine if they have any records on the where the remains from ground zero were laid to rest. The City has yet to hear back from them.

One other question that came up at the City Council meeting was if there were any commitments made as it relates to the I-beam. Staff did go back into the file and in 2004 the donor group sent an E-mail to Park staff which stated what the primary commitments to NYC WTC Committee were.

- There can be no fees charged to view the memorial.
- The site must be visible from a major traveled road or street. The memorial cannot be hid behind another memorial, trees, buildings or other structures.
- The site must have easy access from a street or road.
- Adequate 24 hour free parking must be relatively close to the site, which includes adjacent street parking. (25 parking spaces minimum).
- Easy bus turnaround, or adequate bus parking must be provided.
- Electricity must be available on the site.

The City has no record of any other commitments that were made. This was in an email from the donor group, not a copy of the contract with the NYC WTC Committee.

At this point it comes down to whether or not the City wants to come up with the funding to repair the memorial, or continue with the removal.

Ald. Nennig stated when the City began to talk about this issue back in June 2011, the intent was to be respectful and honorable of those who lost their lives on 9/11, with the possibility of installing the memorial indoors at the proposed Public Safety Building. It could be interactive and could serve as an educational tool for future generations. He would like to see all documents the donor group brought to the last City Council meeting related to the memorial. He would like to know what the documents say about what is involved with fixing it and what the City commitments are before making a decision.

Ald. Zima asked if there is a written report from the Public Arts Commission subcommittee.

Ald. Nennig replied he received a report about the condition of the 9/11 Memorial and the alternative solution of placing it in the proposed Public Safety Building. However, no exact costs were given.

Ald. Zima believes some information was withheld at the subcommittee meeting and therefore, a proper decision may not have been made. He stated there were defects noticed in the early years after construction and the group was interested in raising money to preserve it, but instead it has been neglected. He believes the location is good and we need to double our efforts now. It would be less than honorable to do anything other than fix what needs to be fixed. Putting the memorial indoors would be like tucking it away. It should stay outdoors so many people can see it every day. The best alternative is to look for people willing to donate services, materials, and to help with fundraising to preserve the memorial.

A motion was made by Ald. Wery and seconded by Ald. Vanderleest to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Bernie Erickson, Brown County Board Member, stated he was invited to be a part of the ground breaking of the 9/11 memorial and has personal ties to 9/11. I have emails and comments from people, and the general feeling is that something has to be done and the memorial should be saved. There may be a more efficient way to repair the memorial. This monument was put up to honor the citizens who died and is a standing memorial to those people. It would be an injustice to hide it away. He would recommend leaving it where it is, recommission it, redesign it, preserve the I-beam and keep it at its present location. Fundraising is not that difficult and people will donate for a good cause. There would be an outpouring from the community in support of this.

Lynn Austin, 1449 Morrow Street – She stated people invested \$250,000 into this project. The City of Green Bay is not good at preserving and valuing what we have. This monument represents people that are deceased, which is very emotional. This is important to people so we need to keep the memorial. One day down the road it will become more valuable than we realize, much like an antique. People have offered money for the repairs so we can't turn them away.

Ald. Dorff clarified two things; first it was understood that \$250,000 was the value of the memorial, but some of the value was in donations of labor and material. She wondered if \$14,000 would be enough to fix the memorial as discussed at the last City Council meeting.

Staff answered the estimated cost to fix the granite was \$36,000 to \$38,000 back in 2009.

Ald. Nennig stated cracks and deterioration occurred rapidly after the monument was built. We are here to try to find a solution. This process started in June and no one came forward to those meetings. No one on this committee intended to disrespect the monument. If someone wishes to come forward with the funds, that would be welcome.

Ald. Dorff stated that people didn't come forward with funds in June but people are coming forward now. 9/11 strikes many of our hearts and we all remember what we were doing that day. Now let's move on and figure out what we are going to do.

Ald. Nennig stated that we could hope to receive in-kind donations to repair the monument. The City expected the monument to last longer than it did. It was unfortunate.

Ald. Zima stated that someone he knows did watch the construction of the monument. There was a canister buried within the base of monument. We do not know exactly what was in that canister.

Ald. Nennig agrees that there is interest in what was embedded in the base of the monument.

Barb Jack, Member of the Donor Group, stated there was a 100 year maintenance agreement between the group and the City. Our group gave this document to Mayor Schmitt the day it was dedicated. She is willing to attempt to get a hold of this document as well as assist in fundraising.

A motion was made by Ald. Wery and seconded by Ald. Vanderleest to return to regular order of business. Motion carried.

Ald. Vanderleest stated that there is sediment throughout the City to keep the monument where it is at and have it restored. We should get the all the facts, acquire funding and see if we can't bring it back to good condition.

Ald. Wery questioned if the Mayor had any statements regarding this topic. Celestine Jeffreys answered he believes this is a legislative decision and was comfortable with the decisions made.

Ald. Nennig stated it may be possible to raise fundraising dollars. I have been researching this and many other 9/11 monuments have a piece of the World Trade Center in them and fundraising dollars were used for construction.

Ald. Wery stated that this issue is currently getting a great deal of attention now that the I-beam was removed. Dedicated groups of people can raise funds and donate time for this project. Over the next few weeks we should gather information about what is inside and what it might take to fix it.

Ald. Nennig stated we might not have kept as many records as we thought as to what commitments were made. If the people that were involved are willing to work together with some of us, then we could move forward.

Ald. Zima stated the monument itself is a tourist attraction and we are always trying to bring people to downtown Green Bay. This is the type of thing we place to attract people as well as to remember the events of 9/11. The City should put together a committee of citizens to set goals to repair the monument. The City should commit to work with the public to preserve, enhance, and maintain the monument in its current location. Only one person out of the one-hundred he talked to opposed the monument.

Ald. Nennig asked for a motion by the committee to table it until the next meeting and try to meet with the people involved, prepare for fundraising, and gather more information including potentially forming a committee.

Ald. Zima stated that they have to do something more.

A motion was made by Ald. Wery and seconded by Ald. Vanderleest to work towards preserving the existing 9/11 monument and to direct staff to research the historic documentation of what was placed in the memorial, present options for repairs and cost estimates to the Park Committee and that the City acknowledge the commitments the

donor group made to the NYC WTC committee when the 9/11 steel beam was donated. Motion carried.

2. Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. DeWane to change the deer hunting ordinance to hunt within the City limits from 100 yards to 50 yards with written permission from neighbors

This request is to amend Section 2.603 of the Green Bay Municipal Code relating to weapons in the City, to change the requirement to allow hunting with a bow or cross bow from 100 yards to 50 yards from a building with the owner's permission.

Ald. Nennig asked for clarification if this is pertaining only to crossbows and bows.

Mike Reed, Wildlife Sanctuary Director, responded yes. He stated that we are proposing to reduce it from 100 yards to 50 yards from an inhabited structure, making it less restrictive.

Prior to Wisconsin legislator passage of Act 71 in 2013, the City of Green Bay managed all deer hunting on both public and private land. After Act 71, Cities were not allowed to restrict archery hunting beyond the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulations for archery hunting of deer on private property, other than limiting how far from a structure they can hunt.

At this time only public land remains in the City managed deer hunt. For private land, individuals must obtain permission from landowners to hunt on private property.

This change should address problems caused by deer in City neighborhoods where little or no appropriate public land is available to place a hunter.

This should reduce the burden on a landowner who wanted to hunt on their own property and encourage more landowners to help the City reduce the deer population in areas of high negative deer activity.

After meeting with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Green Bay Police Department (GBPD) it was found that other surrounding municipalities have a 50 yard ordinance and it is working well. The GBPD does not regard the change as a public safety issue,

In summary:

- Currently the City only manages deer hunting on public property.
- Private landowners can legally archery hunt on their own property with permission of adjacent landowners.
- Other surrounding municipalities have a 50 yard ordinance that is working well.
- The GBPD does not regard the change to 50 yards as a public safety issue.
- The change from 100 yards to 50 yards should enhance hunting opportunities within the City limits of Green Bay.

- This change will increase the opportunity for Neighborhood Associations and Alderpersons to address deer related problems.

Ald. Nennig asked for clarification for what the 50 yards means.

Atty. Faulds and M. Reed clarified that the landowner could give someone permission to hunt on their land but it would have to be a minimum of 50 yards away from an inhabited structure. The current ordinance states 100 yards. The weapon has to be discharged from an elevated stand pointing down toward the ground, license, and tags requirements would apply.

A motion was made by Ald. Nicholson and seconded by Ald. Wery to approve the request by Ald. DeWane to amend Section 2.603 of the Green Bay Municipal Code relating to weapons in the City, to change the requirement to allow hunting with a bow or cross bow from 100 yards to 50 yards from a building with the owner's permission. Motion carried.

3. Director's Report

The Playground at Atkinson Park is almost completed. We hope to be done by September 29, 2017.

Crews are re-grading the infields at several diamonds so they are ready for spring.

Tree pruning is now occurring in the Edison Park area. We recently pruned on Park Street, Lark Street, and Elmore Street on the west side.

The Astor Park shelter is now completed.

The west end train at Bay Beach was bid out and awarded out the lowest bidder. Construction should begin in a few weeks.

The contract at Colburn Pool with the engineering consultant has been finalized.

Staff met with the manufacturer of the proposed pool liner to learn more about the product and discuss design details for our pool renovation.

The engineering consult and architect met with city staff to begin the process for the site work and renovations to the building. The consult has begun work on the engineering documents.

Work continues on the Fox River Trail replacement. All of the excavation has been completed and the gravel has been placed.

The second annual Haunted Chase Race will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Bay Beach and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Registration is open for the first session of indoor swim lessons. Session 1 begins on October 19, 2017 at Edison Middle School.

Bay Beach is now closed for the season. However, in the month of October, we have Saturday events that occur; the craft show on October 7, Haunted Chase Race on October 14, and Duathlon on October 21.

The Autumn Adventure sponsored by the Thursday breakfast optimist club, will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 10am-2pm.

A motion was made by Ald. Nicholson and seconded by Ald. Vanderleest to receive and place on file the Director's Report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Nicholson and seconded by Ald. Wery to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.